

Department of Transportation

**State Project No. 76-193
Federal Aid Project Number (PE) 0844(147)
Improvements on I-84 EB Exit 63 On/Off-Ramp and
Intersection of Routes 30 and 83
Town of Manchester
Public Informational Meeting Held at
Lincoln Center
464 Main Street, Manchester
Thursday, May 17, 2012**

Minutes

Presentation:

- There were approximately 18 attendees, including Rudy C. Kissmann from the Town of Manchester, Tom Delnicki, the South Windsor Mayor, and two business owners and seven residents.
- A colored plan of the proposed improvements and an accident diagram were displayed. The Department presented the Preliminary Design proposal as well as the Rights of Way process to the attendees.
- The project encompasses the intersection of I-84 eastbound Exit 63 off/on-ramp with Route 30 and Route 83 and their approaches. The purpose is to improve the operation and safety of the intersection. The following improvements are proposed:
 - ⇒ Add an exclusive right-turn lane to the Route 30 eastbound approach by widening along the north side of Route 30. This work requires rehabilitation of the existing bridge over the Hockanum River.
 - ⇒ Add a left-turn lane to the Route 83 northbound approach by widening along the east side of Route 83. This work requires a slope easement and a temporary work area to accommodate the existing drainage system.
 - ⇒ Realign and widen the off-ramp to create a simple curve to improve sightlines. This off-ramp work includes providing an additional left-turn lane and extending the existing right-turn lane, totaling four lanes. A new bridge structure and environmental permitting are required.
 - ⇒ Shift the on-ramp lanes to the east to match the Route 83 northbound thru lanes. The existing lane configuration of the on-ramp will remain unchanged.
 - ⇒ Install a new signal at this intersection.
- It is anticipated that a partial property acquisition, a slope easement, and temporary work area will be required.
- Conflicts with utility poles are not anticipated.
- Wetland permits including Inland Wetland, Flood Management, Stream Channel Encroachment, and Storm Water Discharge permits are anticipated.
- Estimated cost of the project is \$12.3 million funded by 100% State funds.

- Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2014 based on the availability of federal/state funding.

Public Comments and Questions:

- A resident asked about the existing pedestrian sidewalk and crosswalk locations and whether or not a crosswalk was located at Tolland Turnpike. The Department described the locations of the existing sidewalk along the north side of Route 30 which switches over to the south side via an existing crosswalk across Route 30 at the Tolland Turnpike intersection. This intersection will continue to feature a crosswalk across Route 30.
- A resident asked why there was no right-turn lane proposed for Route 30/Route 83 westbound to turn onto the on-ramp. The Department stated that there is limited space to provide a long enough right-turn lane due to the commercial driveways in the vicinity of the intersection. The adjacent through-lane traffic backs-up so quickly that vehicles trying to make the right turn movement would be trapped in the through-lane traffic, not being able to take advantage of the exclusive right-turn lane.
- A resident asked if this project was part of the corridor study relative to the Buckland Hills Mall. The Department stated that although the intersection was within the limits of the Buckland Hills Mall corridor study, this project has been initiated independent of the study. The project limits do not extend beyond the Tolland Turnpike intersection with Route 30.
- A resident asked if the signal timing phase could be shortened on all approaches of the intersection. The Department stated that the signal timing phases will be determined and updated according to the Division of Traffic Engineering's study and review, which are typically based on existing and projected traffic volumes. Providing the additional turn lanes at the intersection will result in shortening the timing phase.
- A resident asked if the Department plans on having one lane open for the I-84 Exit 63 eastbound off-ramp traffic during construction. The Department will maintain two lanes of traffic open throughout construction of the new off-ramp. Short lane closures will be required during off-peak hours for access to the work area of the new alignment and new bridge.

Adjournment: In general, the project was well received by those in attendance. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.